

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 33 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Joseph W. Collins, Pastor, Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, this Congress of the United States represents the diversity of our land from the Potomac to the Pacific, from the Great Lakes to the Rio Grande, from the Everglades to Mt. McKinley, from the Rocky Mountains to the Appalachian hills; yet we are one Nation.

Almighty God, this Congress represents the diversity of our people from Native American to each new immigrant, from those in poverty to those living in prosperity, from the newborn child to those in their 90s. We are one Nation.

One Nation with a common heritage, a heritage consecrated at Yorktown, fought and died for on Gettysburg's fields, washed in blood on the beaches of Normandy.

Almighty God, shower upon this Congress Your wisdom and guidance. Amidst our diversity help us to remember that we are one. We share a common heritage, the right to life and liberty. Help this Congress to govern fairly and effectively. May they seek to do that which is worthy of Your blessing. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ETHERIDGE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 410. Concurrent Resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the adop-

tion of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and recognizing the Marshall Islands as a staunch ally of the United States, committed to principles of democracy and freedom for the Pacific region and throughout the world.

#### WELCOMING DR. JOSEPH W. COLLINS

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the guest chaplain for today is Dr. Joe Collins; and as the Speaker pointed out earlier, Joe is presently the senior minister at the Mt. Carmel Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, which is in the gentleman from North Carolina's (Mr. BURR) district. But Dr. Collins served for 8 years at the Central United Methodist Church in Denton, North Carolina, which is located in the district that I am pleased to represent.

Dr. Collins is a graduate of the Duke Divinity School and was awarded his Doctor of Minister degree from Drew University in New Jersey. Joe and his wife, Lynne, are parents of three children, and his son Garrett accompanies him today.

Mr. Speaker, we are indeed pleased to cordially welcome Dr. Collins to the people's House.

#### REPUBLICAN ATTACKS ON SENATOR JOHN EDWARDS ARE WRONG

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend the honor of my State's senior Senator. Last night on this floor, Republican Members attacked Senator JOHN EDWARDS over his career as an attorney for ordinary people who have been wronged. The critics could not be more wrong.

Growing up in the small town of Robbins, JOHN EDWARDS learned the values of hard work and standing up for the little guy. He used those values in his profession as an outstanding legal mind to fight for folks who would turn to him as their last chance for justice.

In North Carolina, we know well that JOHN EDWARDS earned a reputation as the people's lawyer. The Raleigh News and Observer called him "an avenging angel." The Charlotte Observer called him a "powerful advocate for average North Carolinians. And the Wilmington Morning Star said, "By background and occupation, Mr. EDWARDS seems inclined to take up for people who work hard and struggle against long odds." Others described him as a "soft-spoken David who has done battle with the Goliaths" on behalf of the little guy.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are wrong to attack JOHN EDWARDS. He has earned an outstanding record for leadership and service for the people of

North Carolina. He will make a great Vice President.

#### TRUE CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT THE FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, full-page ads across official Washington say it all: "True conservatives oppose the Federal Marriage Amendment."

Oh, really? As one of a handful of Members of Congress with a 100 percent rating from the American Conservative Union, I think I can legitimately claim that title, and I profoundly disagree with the assertion in the ads.

In fact, true conservatives believe in conserving, protecting, and defending the foundational institutions of our society and of Western Civilization. True conservatives believe, as I do, that marriage was ordained by God, established by law, that it is the glue of the American family and the safest harbor to raise children. And true conservatives also know that the only effective response to judicial activism at the State and Federal level is a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as the union between a man and a woman.

Do not believe what one reads, Mr. Speaker. True conservatives support the Federal Marriage Amendment.

#### CONGRATULATING HOUSTON, TEXAS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I just want to announce that I believe JOHN EDWARDS will be an excellent Vice President, and certainly I hope that those of us who adhere to the Constitution will do what is right and not amend it.

But I rise today to congratulate Houston, Texas, because this evening we will be the host of the All-Star Game. I want to congratulate Drayton McLane, and I want to congratulate the Astros because we are a team that loves America's pastime; and, frankly, I believe it will be an exciting evening and afternoon of events, and we will get the chance to see great outstanding Americans play America's most favorite pastime.

We know these are difficult times, but I think it is just appropriate to celebrate a city that is welcoming all those who are coming to enjoy a wonderful evening and see all the great All Stars from all over the Nation.

And I also want to congratulate Drayton McLane and the Astros for their great charitable contributions to our community: the Urban Initiatives program of Major League Baseball that encourages inner-city youth to play